

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Howell Todd
Song Leader: Kyle Richardson
Opening Prayer: Dan Smith
Lord's Supper
Presiding: Ken Grandstaff
Serving: Eric Horne
Kyle Richardson
Preaching: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Kyle Richardson

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Brian Horner
Preaching: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Kyle Richardson

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Kyle Richardson
Devotional: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Serving Next Sunday:

Lord's Supper: Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Howell Todd
Opening Prayer: Dan Smith
Closing Prayer: Kyle Richardson

To all our visitors - Welcome!
We hope you will come back
and worship with us soon!

TEAM MEETINGS

Correspondence - Sunday evenings
after worship see Kyle Richardson.

Visitation/Bible Study - For
assignments see Brian Horner.

Member Care - Regarding Member
needs contact Kyle Richardson.

Flower Request - Please call Lynda
Ann Sparkman: 444.0938(h) 587.8187(c)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Gospel Meeting!

Sep 16-18 with Fred Rhodes. Be
inviting your friends and family!

Sign up to help!

Sheets in the back for food items
during the campaign. Any
amount helps!

Fellowship Meal after worship on
Sunday morning of the meeting.

We will be knocking doors Sun-
Wed of the meeting. Come help!

***"But you, O LORD, are
enthroned forever; you are
remembered throughout all
generations."***

Psalms 102:12

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the Word
(Rom 10:17)

Believe in Jesus
(John 8:24)

Repent of your sins
(Luke 13:3)

Confess faith in Christ
(Rom 10:10)

Be Baptized for forgiveness of sins
(Acts 2:38)

Live Faithfully
(1 Cor. 15:58)

Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

September 9, 2012

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM
Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

You Never Stump Your Toe While Standing Still

A boastful voice may say, "I could have told you...if you care about people, you risk being hurt and disappointed...if you teach someone the bible, you will risk being misunderstood, misquoted, or even embarrassed at times...if you share your prosperity with others in need, you will risk being taken, thought a fool, and you may even go broke...if you take the lead in some good work, you risk making mistakes in judgment and taking the blame for the failures."

The voice comes to taunt, "I could have told you..." but brethren, it is not the voice of God that says, "sit and do nothing out of fear!" He did not give us *"a spirit of fear"* (2 Tim. 1:7). The Lord's business is risky business in the eyes of the materialist. But to those who love and trust God, there is no risk, only reward. We see our goal ahead and not the pebbles of the roadway!

The apostle Paul not only stumped his toes traveling with the gospel, he was stoned, beaten with rods, shipwrecked (2 Cor. 11:25), despised (1 Cor. 4:10), forsaken by those he helped (2 Tim. 4:16), and considered by many to be foolish (1 Cor 4:10). Someone in his generation probably said, "I could have told you..." But Paul knew all the risks, and still chose to be active in the Lord's work.

James 4:17 still reads, *"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."* When we know to do good, but fail because of lack of effort, it shows our lack of faith in God. Those who did nothing may brag that they never stumped their toes, but they also never got anywhere in the Lord's work.

Study carefully the scene in **Mathew 25** regarding those who did nothing and hear the voice of the Lord say, *"Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire"* (v.41). Now I ask, dear reader: Who really is foolish and who really runs greater risks-those who bury their talents and stand still doing nothing, or those who like Paul, *"Press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:14).

Edward Thomason, Paducah, KY

Do What You Can!

During the last week of his earthly life, Jesus is invited to supper at the home of a man described as "Simon the leper." The entire account is recorded in Mark 14:3-9. We are probably safe in assuming that Simon was no longer a leper at this point, but one whom Jesus had healed. Otherwise, the Law of Moses would have required him to keep his distance from others and he would not be hosting a large dinner party.

In the course of the meal, Mark tells us that "a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head." Immediately some begin to criticize her for wasting such expensive ointment. It could have been sold for three hundred denarii - almost a year's pay for the average working man of that time. What would that be today? Perhaps it would be something between \$10,000 and \$25,000-not an amount to be wasted by any of us. So perhaps we can understand the concerns expressed. Her critics point out that many of the poor and homeless could have been cared for with the money she could have gotten by selling the ointment. But Jesus defends the woman, saying among other things, "Leave her alone...She has done what she could."

Do what you can! This woman couldn't be an apostle. She couldn't perform miracles to heal the sick.. But she could show her love for Jesus in a way that has not been forgotten after almost two thousand years (Mark 14:9).

Most of us realize that our abilities and opportunities are limited. After preaching the gospel for thirty-two years, I realize that I will never be one of those preachers who are always in demand to speak at the lectureships and worships, but that's all right. Jesus didn't call me to do that. He called me to preach and teach the Bible plainly and faithfully, and if I do that, I have done what I can.

What about you? Perhaps you'll never be a public speaker, a great song leader, or someone invited to conduct preacher training worships. But if so, then you need to focus on what you can do. Teach your children and grandchildren the Bible and lead them to Christ. Set the right example for them. Talk to your friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers about the importance of Christianity. Invite them to study with you. Invite them to worship. Offer to pick them up and bring them. Give generously. Study diligently. Worship faithfully. Visit the sick. Help the poor. Spend time with the lonely. Comfort the hurting. Don't worry about what you can't do. Do what you can!

Jim Mullican, Channelview, TX

The Power of Example

A fine lad entered the army. On the first night in the barracks when he went to bed, he faced a real test. At home, he had the habit of reading the Bible and kneeling down to pray before retiring. In the barracks, he was entirely surrounded by rough fellows. Many of them were cursing and joking loudly. The lad thought it might be wise to go to bed and read his Bible where nobody would notice him.

Then he thought and boldly decided, I'm a Christian! I ought to be an example for Jesus before the fellows. I won't pull down my colors. I will do here like I always did at home. So he took out his Bible and read it. Then he knelt down to pray. The barracks became quiet. After a while the talk began again, but it was more subdued. No one said anything about the young soldier's unusual behavior. The next night when he got out his Bible, eight other soldiers got out their Bibles.

Within a month every soldier in the barracks would have fought for the lad. They came to him with their questions and their troubles. May you and I have the same type of dedication and courage as this young soldier. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (**Matt. 5:16**).

Ken Tyler, Scottsboro, AL

Remember in Prayer

Shut Ins:

Vallie Andrews
Fannie Bell Warren
Janelle Arrington

Others:

Hollis Cluck
Vickie Wade - cancer
Muril Todd
Karen Hudson - cancer
Christy Garrett
The Bryan Family
Annie and JW Smith
Margie Taylor
Priscilla and Patrick Graves
Jessica Richardson
Dan Smith
Diane Grandstaff and family
William Wells - *inoperable condition*
Joe Allen
Linda Kay Edwards - *surgery recovery*
Dylan Speck - *kidney problems*
Haily Speck - *melanoma*
Edna Forbes
Janice Garrett
Carol Goins - *Mary L.'s sister*
Lila Kirk

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests: Kyle Richardson (495-7106) Dorothy Jean Smith (444-5437)

Daily Bible Reading

Day	Scripture
Sunday (<i>Epistles</i>)	2 Timothy 3-4
Monday (<i>The Law</i>)	Numbers 13-16
Tuesday (<i>History</i>)	1 Chronicles 20-24
Wednesday (<i>Psalms</i>)	Psalms 105-107
Thursday (<i>Poetry</i>)	Proverbs 22
Friday (<i>Prophecy</i>)	Joel
Saturday (<i>Gospels</i>)	John 13-15

September Birthdays:

18 - Sophia Hudson